

Capsule Summary
SM-556
Johnson Store and House
Leonardtown
Private

c. 1919

Located on the north side of Fenwick Street, the Johnson House and Store represents a good example of a multi-use building in Leonardtown. In 1919, the Johnson family purchased a twelve acre tract called "Orchard" from the heirs of Susan R. Maddox for \$750. Soon after, I. Stanley and Ida F. Johnson erected a frame, two story, multi-purpose building with hipped roof that housed a general merchandise store as well as a dwelling for the Johnson family. The store was located on the first floor of the east side of the building. The interior contained a counter and shelving and the rear section contained a space for storage. In his childhood Ed Stokel remembers sledding down Madison Street (now Fenwick Street) and stopping in the store to remain warm. This warmth, however, came with a price as Stanley Johnson soon demanded the kids buy something when they came in. As a result Ed and his friends would buy penny candy. While these remembrances may seem merely curious, they point to the intangible importance of the neighborhood general merchandise store to all people in the community.

In the 1940s or 1950s the building was moved about 20 yards north of the road because of increased noise from passing traffic. Ida Johnson sold the property in 1969, and the building was converted into an multi-family dwelling. While the building has been altered by the addition of aluminum siding and new windows, the building still retains its character defining fenestration, hip roof, and overall form.

SM-556, Johnson's House and Store
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture, Commerce

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Residence/Store
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-556

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnson's Store and House

and/or common

2. Location

N side of Fenwick Street, just E of the intersection of Washington and Fenwick Streets
street & number ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Steven W. and Jan E. Wachter

street & number PO Box 1537 telephone no.: (301) 475-3238

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 1059

street & number folio 354

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-556

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved

date of move

1950s-1960s

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Johnson store and house is located approximately 50 yards east of the intersection of Washington and Fenwick Streets in Leonardtown, Maryland. The building sits about 40 feet back from Fenwick Street on the south and is bounded to the west by a one story brick commercial building, a large grassy yard to the north, and a two story dwelling to the east.

The five bay, two story, frame Johnson store and house features a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building rests on a concrete block foundation and the walls are sheathed with aluminum siding. The walls and roof meet at an enclosed box cornice. The almost pyramidal hipped roof features two brick interior chimney flues.

The primary or south elevation exhibits a porch that extends the entire length of the building. The porch rests on brick piers and is supported by six square posts interspersed by a plain ballustrade. The middle post also features a wood divider that separates the first floor bays. To the west of the divider is a one-over-one, double-hung sash window and a five panel door that exhibits a pair of sidelights and a transom. To the east of the divider is a centrally located three panel door with sidelights and transom flanked on either side by a one-over-one window. The second floor bays consist of four, asymmetrically placed, one-over-one windows--each window with a pair of louvered shutters.

According to oral tradition the east side of the building served as a general merchandise store while the rest of the building served as a residence for the proprietor. The building's interior is presently divided into apartments.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-556

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates**Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on the north side of Fenwick Street, the Johnson House and Store represents a good example of a multiple function building in Leonardtown. In 1919, the Johnson family purchased a twelve acre tract called "Orchard" from the heirs of Susan R. Maddox for \$750. Soon after, I. Stanley and Ida F. Johnson erected a frame, two story, multi-purpose building with hipped roof that housed a general merchandise store as well as a dwelling for the Johnson family. The store was located on the first floor of the east side of the building. It contained a counter and shelving and the rear section contained a space for storage. In his childhood Ed Stokel remembers sledding down Madison Street (now Fenwick Street) and stopping in the store to remain warm. This warmth, however, came with a price as Stanley Johnson soon demanded the kids buy something when they came in. As a result Ed and his friends would buy penny candy. While these remembrances may seem inconsequential, they point to the intangible importance of the neighborhood general merchandise store to all people in the community. These stores fell out of popularity with the opening of large general merchandise chain stores such as K-mart, Wal-mart, and Rose's.

In the 1940s or 1950s the building was moved about 20 yards north of the road because of increased noise from passing traffic. Soon after Ida Johnson sold the property in 1969, the building was converted into an multi-family dwelling. While the building has been altered by the addition of aluminum siding and new windows, the building still retains its character defining fenestration, hip roof, and overall form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-556

Interview with Ed Stokel. January, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.47 acresQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate February, 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHOD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2000
514-7600

SM-556, Johnson Store and House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-title (Please note that all records can be found in the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 1059, Folio 354
Grantee: Steven W. and Jan E. Wachter
Grantor: G. Howard Burch and Bernice Ann Burch
Date: May 23, 1996
Notes: The property consists of .47 acres.

Reference: Liber MRB 521, Folio 188
Grantee: G. Howard and Bernice Anne Burch
Grantor: Ernest Benton Burch, Margaret B. Colliflower and Chloe B. Franz
Date: February 24, 1990
Notes: The Burch's purchase the tract for \$60,000.

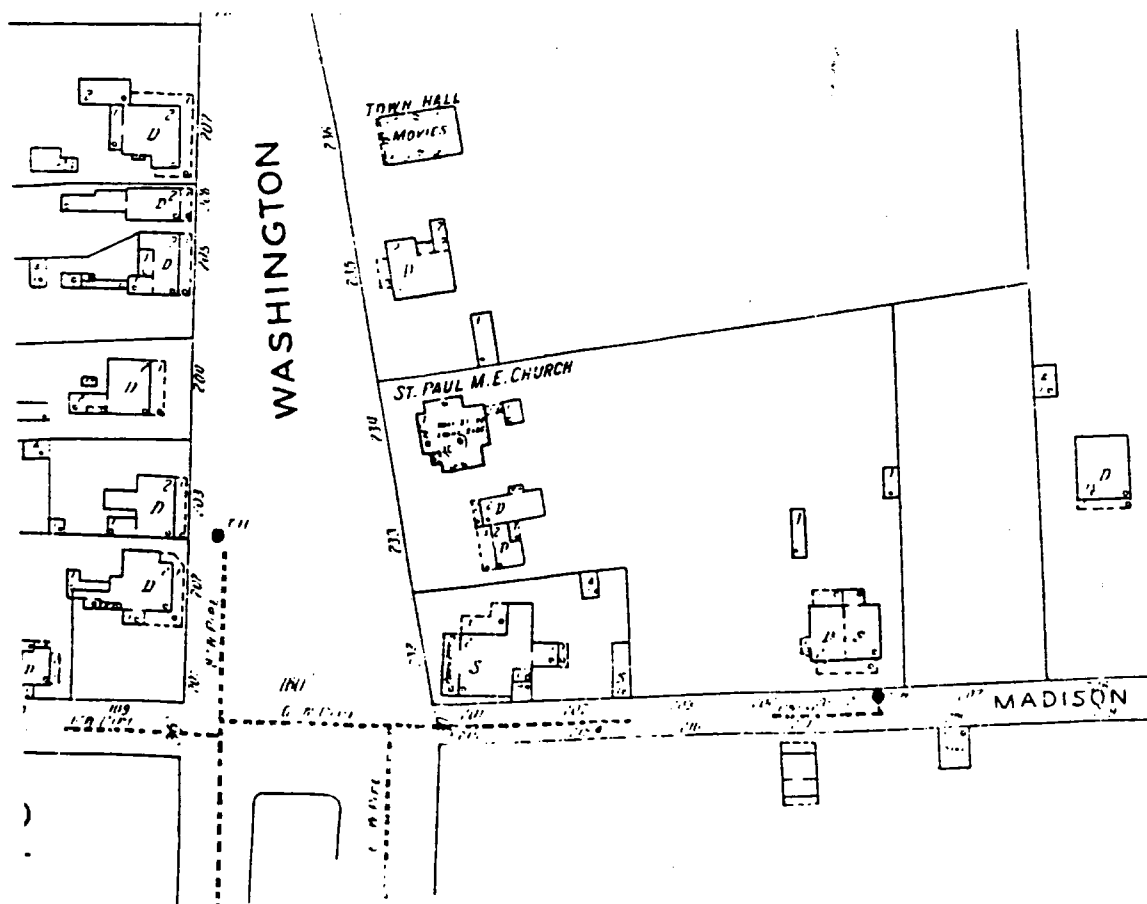
Reference: Liber MRB 451, Folio 277
Grantee: Ernest Benton Burch, Margaret B. Colliflower and Chloe B. Franz
Grantor: Margaret H. Burch
Date: January 4, 1989

Reference: Liber MRB 121, Folio 306
Grantee: Ernest Foxwell Burch
Grantor: Ernest Foxwell Burch, personal representative of Stephen T. Foxwell
Date: June 24, 1982

Reference: Liber 155, Folio 169
Grantee: Stephen T. Foxwell
Grantor: Ida F. Johnson
Date: November 21, 1969
Notes: The inventory of I. Stanley Johnson (ACM 1, 401), dated September 27, 1940, lists a store and dwelling building on the north side of Madison (now Fenwick) Street.

Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio 456
Grantee: I. Stanley Johnson and Ida F. Johnson
Grantor: Delia H. Maddox, Cora Maddox Cole, Robert H. Cole, heirs of Susan R. Maddox
Date: January 8, 1919
Notes: The Johnson's purchased the 12 acre property for \$750.

SM-556, Johnson Store and House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance



1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing the Johnson house and store at its original location close to Fenwick Street.



